

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – August 14, 2012 – 7 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty

Also present: Mayor Donald Reese, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Daniel Losco, Finance Director Marian Delaney, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Megginson to approve the minutes of May 23 and July 17, 2012. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlin reported that, as of July 31, 2012: petty cash on hand was \$1,100; total cash in checking and saving accounts in M&T Bank, \$602,433.23; total certificates of deposit, money market and Delaware Government Investment Pool, \$933,715.61; and total cash on hand, \$1,536,148.84.

A motion was made by Councilperson Cochran to approve the Treasurer's Report. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously

Report from the City Administrator

Administrator Thomas highlighted a few items. Related to the Frenchtown Road annexation, it does not appear DelDOT is going to restrict people from turning left going from the City out to Hares Corners, but they are going require a dedicated left-turn lane and a straight-through lane. Two individuals that the City works with a lot will be moving on: DelDOT Engineer Joe Hofstee has gotten a promotion and Dave Carter of DNREC will be retiring. The City has new smoking urns to safely dispose of cigarette butts. She acknowledged the work of Councilperson Petty, resident Dr. Jo Viola and Recreation Coordinator Asiah Lemon in bringing publicity for this effort. A contest was held through the recreation program to see who could pick up the most cigarette butts—all were provided with safety protection. They picked up 1,000 cigarette butts on one side of Delaware Street. The urns were paid for with grant money.

Staff reports

President Barthel said the staff reports were accepted as presented.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran provided the review: Grant income, American Lung Association, \$1,515.08; Highway safety, \$158.76; Separation Day, \$33,000; State of Delaware, \$56,405.75.

Business from the Floor

No comments.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese said he received a letter from the Thunderbird people thanking the City for having such a great town. Fifty-nine people showed with Thunderbirds. The baskets to new residents program is ongoing. There were 13 property transfers in July. He was interviewed for a Discovery Channel show with Terry Bradshaw. Mrs. Thomas and Sally Denton assisted him. They are waiting to hear from officials on whether it will proceed.

Unfinished Business

1. Third Reading and Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 488, to amend and restate Chapter 177 of the Code of the City of New Castle relating to Peddling and Soliciting.

President Barthel said this item was being tabled and asked Solicitor Losco to explain.

Mr. Losco said the City needs to update its peddling and soliciting ordinance because what is in there is, in some cases, unconstitutional. However, the State Legislature, effective Aug. 3, adopted a statute that regulates commercial soliciting to some degree and the City needs to make sure its new ordinance is consistent with the State.

New Business

1. Discussion of a request for transfer of a portion of City property to private property owner Simon Watts at 60 W. 3rd Street.

President Barthel said Mr. Watts is trying to square off his property. He has been working with the Trustees for a number of years and they have determined it is the City's lot. He is requesting the City transfer the lot.

Administrator Thomas said the property is the last residential property on Third Street. It is next to the vacant lot that is next to the tennis court. She recommended not discussing it at this meeting because neither Mr. Watts nor a representative is at the meeting. It is completely the Council's option as far as whether it wants to entertain the matter.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2012-25, awarding the bid and contract for road and street repair work.

Councilperson Megginson said Building Official Bergstrom and Engineer David Athey surveyed City streets and identified the ones that need to be resurfaced. They drew up specifications for the bid packages and it was advertised. Three contractors picked up the bid packages. Two contractors attended the bid meeting. Two contractors bid the projects: Cirillo Bros. Inc. and Greggo & Ferrara Inc. He thinks they have a very fair bid package and Mr. Athey recommended going for the low bidder.

Councilperson Petty made a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution was seconded by Councilperson Cochran.

The low bid from Greggo & Ferrara was \$268,925; the Cirillo Bros. bid was \$374,168.95.

The project is expected to begin immediately after it is awarded.

Administrator Thomas said there are citizen notification requirements.

A discussion took place about some adjustments, subtractions or additions, if necessary.

Councilperson Gaworski said one additional area that needs attention is the area at Third Street and Delaware Street, and another in front of the Library.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Comments from the floor.

Danny Plumley from Seventh and Clayton streets. He said he is concerned about Delaware Street at West Seventh Street. He recommends putting in a crosswalk where the banners are.

Administrator Thomas said the City likely would need to work with DelDOT.

Mayor Reese introduced the manager of the M&T Bank branch, Brenda Gardner. She was with Wilmington Trust for 21 years.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to adjourn the meeting into an executive session to address a personnel matter. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk